

P5280a

09/653,422

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A printer comprising:
 - (a) a printing processor for printing at least one of text and graphics;
 - (b) a holder for holding one of a plurality of replaceable units used in conjunction with the printing processor;
 - (c) a detection processor for detecting at least one of mounting or replacement of the one replaceable unit in the holder;
 - (d) a nonvolatile memory comprising a plurality of areas for storing data;
 - (e) a counting processor for metering an amount related to a specific function of the one replaceable unit; and
 - (f) a storage processor for storing a cumulative amount relating to the specific function of the one replaceable unit metered by the counting processor in a first specific area of the memory, and when the detection processor detects that the one replaceable unit is replaced with a new replaceable unit, storing a separate cumulative amount relating to the metered specific function of the new replaceable unit in a second specific area of the memory, and storing in a third specific area of the memory a total amount relating to the specific function.
2. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises a cutter device for cutting a print medium on which the printing processor prints text or graphics, and the counting processor meters the number of times the cutter device cuts the print medium.
3. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises an ink cartridge for supplying ink for the printing processor to print text or graphics, and the counting processor meters the amount of ink supplied in printing.

P5280a

09/653,422

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

4. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises a print head for printing text or graphics, the printing processor prints text or graphics by driving the replaceable print head installed in the holder, and the counting processor calculates a print head drive count when printing text or graphics.

5. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises an operating unit related to the printing operation of the printer.

6. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises a consumable of the printer.

7. (Original) A printer as in claim 1, further comprising a reporting processor that reports to the printing processor information relating to amounts associated with at least one specific function stored in memory in response to a specific operation of the printer, and the printing processor printing the reported information.

8. (Original) A printer as in claim 7, further comprising a data communication processor connected to an external device for sending and receiving data therewith;

the reporting processor reporting to the printing processor information relating to amounts associated with at least one specific function stored in memory in response to a specific command from the external device, and

the printing processor printing the reported information.

9. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 8, wherein the external device comprises a host computer,

the reporting processor reports to the data communication processor information relating to amounts associated with at least one specific function stored in memory in response to a specific command from the host computer, and

the data communication processor sends the information to the host computer.

P5280a

09/653,422

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

10. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 1, further comprising a time information obtaining means for obtaining time information comprising at least date information identifying when the one replaceable unit is replaced, and

the storage processor storing the date information in memory in correlation with the amount of the specific metered function at the time the one replaceable unit is replaced.

11. (Original) A printer as in claim 10, further comprising a real-time clock and the time information obtaining means is for reading the real-time clock.

12. (Original) A printer as in claim 10, further comprising an interface connecting to a host computer, and the time information obtaining means comprises a communication controller for obtaining time information from the host computer.

13. (Currently amended) A printer comprising:

- (a) a printing processor for printing at least one of text and graphics;
- (b) a holder for holding one of a plurality of replaceable units used in conjunction with the printing processor;
- (c) a detection processor for detecting at least one of removal, installation, or replacement of the one replaceable unit in the holder;
- (d) a nonvolatile memory comprising a plurality of areas for storing data;
- (e) a counting processor for metering an amount relating to a specific function of the one replaceable unit;
- (f) a time information obtaining means for obtaining time information comprising at least date information;
- (g) a storage processor for storing a cumulative amount relating to the specific function metered by the counting processor in a specific area of the memory, and when the detection processor detects that the one replaceable unit is replaced with a new replaceable unit, storing in the memory amounts relating to the specific metered function of the one replaceable unit in conjunction with at

P5280a

09/653,422

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

least one of the date of the installation of the one replaceable unit or the date of replacement of the one replaceable unit obtained from the time information obtaining means;

(h) usage limit memory for storing a usage limit value indicative of at least one of a maximum usable volume or count associated with the specific function of the one replaceable unit; and

(i) a signal output section for outputting a signal indicative that at least one of the usage amount or count associated with the specific function of the one replaceable unit is at least one of near or at the stored usage limit value; and

the storage processor stores ~~the another~~ time information, including at least date information, obtained from the time information obtaining means in the nonvolatile memory in correlation with the one replaceable unit when the signal output section outputs said signal.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A printer as in claim 13, wherein the one replaceable unit comprises an ink cartridge, the amount associated with the specific function is an ink discharge count, and the counting processor comprises a discharge counter.

16 - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) ~~A printer control method as in claim 23, further comprising:~~ A control method for a printer having a printing processor for printing at least one of text and graphics, a holder for holding a replaceable unit used in conjunction with the printing processor, a nonvolatile memory comprising a plurality of areas for storing data, and a time information obtaining means for obtaining at least date information, comprising:

(a) detecting at least one of removal, installation, or replacement of a replaceable unit in the holder;

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

P5280a

09/653.422

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

(b) calculating a cumulative amount relating to a specific function of a functional part of the removed, installed, or replaced replaceable unit starting from detection of at least one of removal, installation or replacement;

(c) obtaining at least the date when at least one of removal, installation, or replacement of the removed, installed, or replaced replaceable unit is detected;

(d) storing in a plurality of specific areas in the memory, separately for each of one of a plurality of removed, installed, or replaced replaceable units, a cumulative amount relating to a specific function of each one of the plurality of removed, installed, or replaced replaceable units in correlation with the date information;

(e) comparing said cumulative amount with a usage limit value stored in a specific area of the memory, said usage limit value indicative of at least one of a maximum at least one of usable volume or count associated with the specific function of the removed, installed, or replaced replaceable unit;

(f) outputting an alarm signal indicative that at least one of the usage amount or count associated with the specific function of the removed, installed, or replaced replaceable unit is at least one of near or at the stored usage limit value; and

(g) storing another time information, including at least date information, in the nonvolatile memory in correlation with the removed, installed, or replaced replaceable unit when the alarm signal is output.

25.-26. (Cancelled)